

Beckingham Bowls Club News 2016

November

Beckingham bowler George Dodsworth sadly passed away at the age of 82 on 9 November, and his funeral was held on 2 December at Woodlands Crematorium, Scunthorpe. There was a large turnout with several Club members joining George's family and friends and players from other clubs and the indoor league. George joined Beckingham in 2012 when the Gainsborough Co-op team folded, and represented Beckingham in the Gainsborough Bowls League and Isle of Axholme Pensioners' and Evening Leagues. He was a well known and highly respected player gaining many trophies and was playing indoor bowls up to 4 days before his passing.

The Club's green is looking in very good shape for the 2017 season, and membership should be sufficient for the Club to again field teams in 4 leagues. The final league tables for the Isle of Axholme Pensioners' Leagues are shown below. The Northern Section players will be disappointed with their 5th position in the league after winning the title in 2015. The Central Section players should not be too disappointed with their league position as the team included players who were new to bowls. The important thing is that the Club entered 2 teams in the Pensioners' Leagues to ensure that new members could gain valuable playing experience for the future good of themselves and the Club.

Isle of Axholme Pensioners' League Northern Section Final League Table 2016

	P	W	D	L	PTS	AGR	Position
EVERTON	14	10	0	4	63	176	1
CROWLE	13	7	0	6	45	24	2
ROSE A	14	9	0	5	42	25	3
MISTERTON	13	7	0	6	42	-22	4
BECKINGHAM N	14	6	0	8	40	-1	5
OWSTON FERRY	14	7	0	7	39	-66	6
HAXEY	14	6	0	8	35	-44	7
WHEATLEY	14	3	0	11	24	-92	8

Isle of Axholme Pensioner's League - Central Section Final League Table 2016

	P	W	D	L	PTS	AGR	Position
MARSHALL A	12	12	0	0	68	321	1
ROSE C	12	7	2	3	45	66	2
MELROSE	12	6	2	4	36	43	3
SCOTTER	12	6	1	5	36	14	4
MARSHALL B	12	3	0	9	29	-56	5
BECKINGHAM C	12	2	1	9	21	-212	6
MARTON	12	3	0	9	17	-176	7

October

October was the month for bowls presentation evenings to round off the season. On 15 October, 7 club members attended the Gainsborough Bowls League Presentation Evening at the United Services Club. League President Ray Robinson presented Beckingham's John Foster with the runners up trophy for the GBL Individual Singles competition, whilst Captain Roger Platts received the GBL Hazel Lawrence Trophy on behalf of the GBL team. It was an enjoyable evening, but the attendance was disappointing with 2 clubs having no representation.



There was an excellent turnout of 40 for the Club's Presentation Evening held in the Village Hall on 28 October, and it was pleasing to welcome previous officers and players of the Club, Barbara & Ken Bullivant, Barbara & Clarrie Brumby, Audrey Rogers, Shirley Wilson and Doreen Brumby. Following the buffet, Chairman Clive Hunter and Captain Roger Platts presented the trophies to the winners of the Club Individual Competitions. It was pleasing to note that there were 3 new names on the trophies this year (new member Margaret Robinson, Pete Ness who only started playing last year, and Ken Byfleet who finally won a trophy after being close for some years). Margaret, Pete and Tony Whitlam received the Triples Trophy, Ken and Bill Bryan accepted the Pairs Trophy, whilst Peter Cawthorne took home

the Singles Trophy. The GBL Kelsey Cup which the Club won this year was “presented” to all the members for their efforts during the season, whilst special mention was made of John Foster’s efforts in battling through 2 rounds and a semi final in the GBL Singles to finish a very close runner up in the final to Melrose’s Julian Cowan.

Following a draw for the table decoration on each table, the raffle with almost 50 prizes was drawn by former Captain Audrey Rogers. The evening concluded with a hotly contested quiz in which two teams tied, but the tie breaker was won by the “Penny Bailey” team comprising Viv. & John Cawkwell, Sue Platts, Janice Savage and Wilf Hawdon. The entry money for the quiz was split between this team and as a donation to the Macmillan Coffee Morning recently held in the Village. The pictures show the 6 trophy winners of the Club Competitions with Chairman Clive Hunter, and John Foster and Roger Platts receiving the GBL trophies mentioned earlier in this report. There was a very good atmosphere all evening and grateful thanks are due to Janice Savage and Freda Proudley for their valuable contribution to the celebrations.



The green is looking very good after being verti drained and re-seeded by direct drilling in September, following hard work by Club members of the ground staff throughout the season, and it will be mowed twice more this year at the appropriate cutting height.

The Club’s application to WREN for funding for the much needed renovation of the inner and outer edge supports to the green has finally been accepted by WREN following an agreement with the Village Hall as landowners for them to be named as applicants with the Bowls Club managing the application and the work, should the application be successful. A decision on this is scheduled for 25 January 2017, and the Bowls Club is determined to maintain and improve their facilities for existing members and for the future benefit of the Village.

September

The curtain came down on the playing season with the Club’s Triples Competition held on Saturday 3 September. There was an excellent turnout of 19 players, and the Club is grateful to Nev. Hethershaw for offering to stand down to enable 6 teams of 3 to be drawn out of the hat. The weather was good to start with, but there was persistent drizzle for the semi finals and finals, and all players are to be congratulated for playing through.

The final was between Pete Ness, Margaret Robinson & Tony Whitlam and Roy Clegg, Pat Weston and Peter Cawthorne. With it becoming difficult to hold the woods, the trio of Pete, Margaret & Tony bowled more consistently to win and take the trophy, which will be presented, along with other trophies, at the Club's Annual Presentation Evening to be held in the Village Hall on Friday 28 October.

Following the closure of the green on 23 September, members scarified the green in readiness for it to be verti-drained and re-seeded by direct drilling during the following week. More members have come forward this year to help spread the work load, which in the past has been left to just "the few".

August

August was a very busy month for Beckingham's bowlers with 2 finals, the Club's Pairs Competition and several league matches. In the last match of the season, the Gainsborough Bowls League team beat Scotter on Marshall's green by 75 shots to 52 to win the final of the Kelsey Cup, the first time since 2009, and the photograph shows the team with the cup after the presentation. The team finished 4th in the league (as they did in 2015), and early in August, inflicted only the 2nd defeat of the season on this year's Champions Marshall A in the league. Unfortunately, Beckingham could not repeat this in the Millennium Trophy final a few days later against the same team when they lost on Melrose's green.

Congratulations to John Foster who came close to winning the GBL Singles when he played Melrose's Julian Cowan in the final at Rose's. He recovered from a bad start to be level at 18 shots each, but Julian eventually won 21 – 18.

The 3 Isle of Axholme Pensioners' and Evening League teams continued to have mixed fortunes and the Pensioners' Northern Section team will have been disappointed not to retain their title when they won the league last year. It is encouraging to note that the Pensioners' Central Section team and I. of A. Evening League teams included 5 players who were new to the sport at the beginning of the season, and all have made good progress.

The Club's Pairs Competition was won by Bill Bryan & Ken Byfleet who beat Roger Platts & Gerald West in the final on a day in which the finalists bowled 40 ends throughout the day.

The green will be closed for the season on 21 September so the usual end of season work on the green can be carried out before the end of September.

Gainsborough Bowls League 2016

Final League Table

	P	W	D	L	PTS	AGR
MARSHALL A	18	16	0	2	142	306
MELROSE SSC	18	16	0	2	136	356
SCOTTER	18	12	0	6	115	306
BECKINGHAM	18	11	0	7	103	100
MISTERTON	18	7	0	11	83	-81
MARTON GB	18	5	0	13	77	-21
OWSTON F.	17	7	0	10	68	-149
N. WHEATLEY	18	7	0	11	63	-274
ROSE A	17	5	0	12	54	-242
MARSHALL SP	18	3	0	15	50	-301

Beckingham Bowls Kelsey Cup Winners August 2016



July

Beckingham's Open Pairs fund raising day on Sunday 17 July was a big success with the maximum 28 pairs competing for the trophy and £150 in prize money. The event was blessed with good weather with all competitors enjoying 7 hours of bowling on a good green with an excellent array of food and refreshments available in the Village Hall and provided and prepared by ladies from the Club. The event raised much needed funds for the Club and Sue & Roger would like to thank all who so willingly helped to make the day so successful and enjoyable.

The Club's Gainsborough Bowls League team made it to their second final of the season when they beat league leaders and last year's Champions Melrose in the semi final of the Millennium Trophy. This competition is played on the same night with 2 rinks at home and 2 away. On 18 July, they won both home rinks, but only by 1 shot on each rink. At Melrose, they lost 1 rink by 1 shot, but performed very well on the last rink to finish to win by 8 shots for an aggregate shots win of 63 to Melrose's 54. They were due to play the final on 7 August.

Beckingham were unable to make it a hat trick of finals when they lost to Melrose in the Hazel Lawrence semi final at Scotter on 25 July.

There was disappointment too in the final of the Knockout Shield at Owston Ferry on 1 August when they met Melrose again. With 1 end to go on 1 rink, each team had 69 shots and Beckingham were holding 4 shots with just the skips to bowl, but Melrose's skip rested 2 woods on the jack and Beckingham lost 69 to 71.

In the league, the Club are still in 4th place and could jump into 3rd above Scotter with a strong finish. Melrose and Marshall A are contesting top spot.

John Foster became the first Beckingham player for many years to reach the final of the GBL Singles when he beat Marton's Ron Sharpe 21 – 19 in the semi final on Marshall's green on 28 July. He was due to appear in the final on 14 August at Roses versus either Julian Cowan from Melrose or Dave Cox from Marshall A.

All 3 of the Club's Isle of Axholme Leagues teams continue to have mixed results, and despite a recent return to form for the I. of A. Pensioners' Northern Section team, they will not be able to retain the Champions spot achieved in 2015.

June

Having already reached one semi final of the 3 knockout competitions, Beckingham's Gainsborough Bowls League team have now made it to the semi finals of the other 2. Comprehensive wins against North Wheatley have earned the team semi finals places in the Millennium Trophy and Hazel Lawrence Trophy, both against Melrose on 18 and 25 July respectively. An outstanding performance in the semi final of the Knockout Shield on 6 July against Roses Leisure on Wheatley's green resulted in a 100 to 38 shots victory for Beckingham, and a final against Melrose (again) on 1 August at Owston Ferry. In the league, Beckingham have slipped out of the top 3, but are well clear in 4th, and a strong end to the season could still see them break into the top 3.

The Isle of Axholme Pensioners' League teams have had mixed results over the last month and they are both in 5th position in their respective leagues, and new members with little bowling experience are gaining valuable experience in the Pensioners' Central Section.

There has been a mid season break in fixtures in the I. of A. Evening League, and Beckingham are midway in that league.

The first of the Club's individual competitions took place on 2 July, and Pete Cawthorne was in unbeatable form to win the Singles Final against Bill Bryan. The complete competition took place on the day, with 2 rounds, semi finals and the final. The Club Pairs competition takes place on Saturday 6th August when spectators are very welcome.

In the GBL individual competitions, Beckingham's Ken Byfleet & John Foster are through to the 3rd round of the Pairs following a last end defeat of Marshall's strong pairing of Tim Kempton & Roy Enever on Marshall's green

The Club's application to WREN for a grant to finance the essential refurbishment of the inner & outer edges of the green has stalled and been put back to the September round of applications. The problem is that applicants have to be the landowners or if not, have a legal lease or management agreement with the landowners for a minimum of 10 years. As there is no such document, the Club's Management Committee are trying to resolve this situation in time for the deadline of 28 September. This is a setback as the Club's membership is growing, the playing surface is among the best in the leagues, and more success is being achieved on the playing front. The only thing missing is the planned improvements in facilities to match the aforementioned.

April and May

The Club's Gainsborough Bowls League team have made an encouraging start to the season, winning 4 of their 5 league matches and reaching the semi final of the Knockout Shield. They now play Rose Leisure in the semi on 6 July on Rose's green. The Isle of Axholme Evening League players have won 2 of their 3 opening league matches, but are out of the knockout cup, losing at home to Epworth. There have been mixed fortunes for the I. of A. Pensioners' League teams. The Northern Section team have registered 2 wins, both with the maximum 6 points, but lost the other 2 by 6 points to 0, and 5 points to 1. The newly formed Central Section team have earned 8 points out of 18, winning 1 of their 3 matches and have had 2 fixtures postponed due to rain.

The Club's Individual Competitions start on Saturday 2 July with the Singles which will be concluded on the day. Bowling starts at 10.00am and spectators are welcome.

Beckingham's Open Pairs competition takes place on Sunday 17 July This is the Club's main fund raising event and all 28 places have been booked and details are shown at the end of this report.

An application for a grant to cover the cost of replacement and refurbishment of the outer and inner edges of the green has been submitted, and a decision is due in October. We are keeping our fingers and everything else crossed that our application will be successful to help fund this essential work.

Beckingham Open Pairs 2016 Sunday 17 July 10.00 am at Beckingham Bowls Club

Pairs playing with 3 woods in 2 "leagues"
6 ends per game, up to 6 games
Final between winners of each "league"
Play off for 3rd & 4th places
Food available all day in the Village Hall
Whisky Board, Spider & Raffle
9.30 am arrival for 10.00 am start
Spectators welcome – no charge
Details from Roger Platts on 01427 848559

February and March

The Club held its Annual Lunch on 13 March at the Fox & Hounds in Willingham by Stow when members past and present enjoyed each others company as well as the food.

Annual clean up day takes place at the bowling green on Saturday 9 April from 10.00 am when it is expected that many members will turn up to bend their backs to complement the work put in by the Club's ground staff in maintaining the green through the winter. On 10 March the green was cored and is again looking in very good condition, although funding was not sought, as was hoped, for refurbishment of the outside supports to the green and for replacement of the existing tea room and toilet facilities. The green will open at 5.30 pm on Thursday 14 April for this season's first Club Night, with GBL friendly matches against Marton taking place towards the end of April, and the first Gainsborough Bowls League match at Scotter on Wednesday 27 April.

There are sufficient players this year to enter 2 teams into the Isle of Axholme Pensioners' Leagues, as well as a team in both the Gainsborough Bowls League and Isle of Axholme Evening League. Members expressed a wish for more friendly matches this year, but the Committee is still waiting for a volunteer from those interested to arrange and run friendly matches.

Should any non members require a copy of our Diary of Events and Fixture Lists, could they please contact Roger Platts on 01427 848559.

January

The Club held its AGM in the Recreation Room on 22 January. Reports prepared by Treasurer Sue Platts, Captain/GBL Team Manager Roger Platts and Grounds Committee Chairman Geoff Proudley were read out by Chairman Clive Hunter in their absence.

The Treasurer reported a small deficit for 2015, with the cost of green, site and equipment again running at over £2000 for the year. A healthy profit was made from the Open Pairs, with sufficient funds maintained for unexpected costs. The Captain reported a very satisfying and successful season and thanked the "few" who gave their time so freely to maintain and improve the green and site, and felt the future of the club looked healthy for several years.

The Gainsborough League Team Captain reported the most successful season for several years, with an excellent team spirit. The team won 16 of the 26 games played, with an aggregate shots difference of plus 342, finished a creditable 4th in the league, won the Hazel Lawrence Trophy, were runners up in the Kelsey Cup and were very close to reaching the final of the K.O. Shield.

The Isle of Axholme Pensioners' League team had an excellent season, winning their league for the first time in the Club's history.

The Grounds Committee Chairman reported that the green was the best it's been, with visitors paying many compliments. Geoff's report thanked the "few" for their help, but felt let down by other Club members.

The following Officers were re-elected: Chairman – Clive Hunter, Vice Chairman – John Cawkwell, Secretary – Janice Savage Treasure – Sue Platts, Captain and GBL Team Manager – Roger Platts, I. of A. Axholme Pensioners' Team Manager – John Cawkwell, I. of A. Evening League Team Manager – John Foster, Grounds Committee Chairman – Geoff Proudley, Village Hall Representative – Don Brown.

The Management Committee had recommended that Life Membership be offered to two members for their long and dedicated service to the Club. One of these members had declined Life Membership, but members accepted the recommendation that Geoff Proudley be made a Life Member.

Other matters covered were Gala Fund Raising Days, Ground and Site Improvements, Printed Club Polo Shirts and Friendly Matches.

Anybody interested in playing bowls should please contact Roger Platts on 01427 848559.